February 1994

From Your Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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From your (crisis prone) editor

Behind every cloud there's a crisis. It never fails. Since I started working with Against the Grain almost six years ago, there is a crisis WITH EVERY ISSUE. Why, you say, that's impossible. If something happens regularly, it is no longer a crisis. Yeah, I tell you, maybe that's the definition, but, still, when every crisis is different, it's a crisis.

It was a wonderful Christmas holiday. My son was home. My daughter was home. And EVERYBODY was well. I even began to get along with my husband and my parents and my inlaws. Everything seemed hopeful. I started working on this issue of ATG. I thought — "my! my! maybe I can get this done largely over the holiday." Thanks to our excellent editors and especially Celia Wagner (the "needle" bug) most of the submissions came in on time. Your crack ATG staff slaved away through the holidays to tell you something. Everything seemed copacetic. Until — your fabulous, coordinated, and basically stupid, editor threw away an untitled folder that should have been titled. Do you know what that means? A full folder of information was replaced with an empty folder of nothing! Talk about clearing 1.5 megabytes of disc space off quick! Talk about unbacked up, untitled folder. Now that's a crisis!

So, late on Tuesday night (that's Tuesday, January 4, when ATG had to be at the printer NO LATER than Monday), I began to duplicate what I had already done. I mean, I LOVE our columns and all that, but once is enough. The only thing I have to say to all of you is that YOU'LL BETTER READ THIS ISSUE!

We want to especially welcome Barbara Dean who with Celia Wagner, Joyce Ogbum, and Rosann Bazirjian, has agreed to be an associate editor. We are looking forward to Barbara's new perspective (not to mention her hard work). Thank you, Barbara!

Truly, this is a great issue. We have talked about dinosaurs, and Stephen Spielberg and publishers, librarians, and vendors. We have talked about the past, the present, and the future. You will notice a few different things. At the 1993 Charleston Conference, there was a division of opinion about putting "Rumors" on the front page. I LOVE Rumors on the front page. Still, I told myself, maybe I should try something different, mix some water with my wine as the saying goes. So, the front cover is different. What do you think? As always, we have added some new features — International Dateline, On the Street, Doc Acquis. What do you think? As my friends tell me frequently, if you don't tell us what you don't like, how can you hope to change it?

So, please write us! We need your words of encouragement or discouragement.

In the meantime, another year rolls in. Happy New Year. And thanks for reading ATG! — Yr. Ed.

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**Against the Grain**

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- Barbara Dean (Fairfax County Public Library)
- Joyce Ogbum (Yale University)
- Celia Scher Wagner (Blackwell)

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**Contributors/Column-March 1**

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